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not break out, however, until the process of taking in ballast had begun, and I regarded this as the probable source of infection until the other ships arrived with a history showing infection previous to the taking in of ballast. The ballast was obtained from the island of Taboga, which, it is said, is free of yellow fever except at the quarantine, and is used for this reason as a safe and cool place for summer residence for the better class of citizens of Panama.

It seems, therefore, almost certain that the infection was carried by the air to these ships. If it is true that the little island coaling stations were not infected, as stated by the ship's captain (which I doubt), it would appear that the only other source of infection was from offshore winds, in which case we would have evidence of the rather remarkable circumstance of yellow-fever infection being carried a distance of at least  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles by winds.

It might be of some interest from a sanitary point of view, as well as affording the information whereby vessels bound for the United States during the coming summer can be protected against similar infection by yellow fever, to find out whether the four island coaling stations at Panama are infected with yellow fever.

Respectfully,

HILL HASTINGS,  
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*Smallpox in Cairo, Ill., and Paducah, Ky.*

CAIRO, ILL., January 21, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report for the week ended January 20, 1900, 5 new cases of smallpox in this city, and no deaths, making 39 cases and 4 deaths reported to date.

The master of one of the steamers making daily trips between here and Paducah ascertained from the mayor of Paducah that there are 18 or 19 cases of smallpox in that city.

Respectfully,

JOHN MILTON HOLT,  
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

*Case of smallpox on the tug Helen at Cape Charles.*

CAPE CHARLES QUARANTINE STATION, January 24, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following detailed report concerning the case of smallpox—already reported—on board the Chesapeake and Ohio tug *Helen*, from Newport News, Va.:

My first information concerning the case was received about the middle of the day, January 21, when the local quarantine officer from Newport News came aboard the *Helen*, within hailing distance of the *Jamestown* and informed me that he had a case of smallpox on board; that the city board of health of Newport News would not admit to the pesthouse and that he knew nothing else to do but to turn everything over to the Marine Hospital Service. Consequently the *Helen* was anchored here in the harbor, and I being unable to communicate with the Bureau—telegraph office being closed until 7 p. m.—went aboard and vaccinated the crew of 8, not including the sick man.

In the meantime Dr. W. F. Creasy, president board of health, Newport News, Va., came to see me, and informed me that the Bureau had been notified, and that instructions would be sent to me by the Bureau. Dr. Creasy, however, was rather undecided as to whether it was his duty to allow the patient to go to the pesthouse, and wanted to make a test case of the matter and have it settled. Late in the evening I was